

Amendment to the Claims:

1. (original) A method of manufacturing a burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, the method comprising:

- providing a through-fitting having
 - a body portion with a through hole along an axis and with a concave, shape-conforming shoulder portion,
 - a neck portion extending axially outwardly from said shoulder portion, said neck portion having an outside diameter less than an outside diameter of said body portion, and
 - a concave, shape-conforming end face disposed on an end of said neck portion;
- providing a hole in the curved corner of the casket, said hole having a rim with a convex outer surface and a concave inner surface, said hole being sized and shaped to permit the passage of said neck portion therethrough, and said rim being disposed to engage said shoulder portion;
- inserting said neck portion of said through-fitting through said hole from an exterior of the casket; and
- crimping said neck portion against said rim on said concave inner surface to affix said through-fitting to said burial casket.

2. (original) A method of manufacturing a burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 1, wherein said crimping step further comprises directing a shape-conforming crimping tool against said end face of said neck portion.

3. (original) A method of manufacturing a burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 2, wherein:

- said crimping tool comprises an end portion having a radius less than a diameter of said through hole, and having a shape-conforming, flange-forming portion disposed around a periphery of said crimping tool; and

- said crimping step comprises forming a shape-conforming flange from said neck portion, said flange being in contact with said rim on said concave inner surface.

4. (original) A method of manufacturing a burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 3, wherein:

- said flange-forming portion has a substantially U-shaped cross-section with an outer rim spaced radially outwardly from said outside diameter of said neck portion, prior to crimping.

5. (original) A method of manufacturing a burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 3, wherein:

- said shape-conforming flange is in contact with said rim on said concave inner surface substantially around an entire periphery of said rim.

6. (original) A method of manufacturing a burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 5, wherein said body portion and said neck portion of said through-fitting are integral and in one-piece.

7. (original) A method of manufacturing a burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 6, further comprising:

- said through-fitting is assembled from inner and outer tubes with first and second ends,

- said first end of said inner tube having external threads and said first end of said outer tube having internal threads,

- second ends of said inner and outer tubes each having a substantially concave face,
- threading said inner tube within said outer tube with said concave face of said inner tube spaced axially outwardly from said concave face of said outer tube,
- said hole being sized to receive said inner tube and said rim of said hole being disposed to abut said second end of said outer tube,
- inserting said second end of said inner tube through said hole from an exterior of the casket, with said concave face of said outer tube abutting said exterior of the casket.

8. (original) A method of manufacturing a burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, the method comprising:

- providing inner and outer tubes having first and second ends,
- said first end of said inner tube having external threads and said first end of said outer tube having internal threads
- second ends of said inner and outer tubes each having a substantially concave face,
- threading said inner tube within said outer tube with said concave face of said inner tube spaced axially outwardly from said concave face of said outer tube,
- forming a hole in a curved corner of the casket, said hole being sized to receive said inner tube and a rim of said hole being disposed to abut said second end of said outer tube,

- inserting said second end of said inner tube through said hole from an exterior of the casket, with said concave face of said outer tube abutting said exterior of the casket,

- crimping a portion of said second end of said inner tube against an interior surface of the casket to affix the assembly of said inner and outer tubes to said casket.

9. (original) A method of manufacturing a burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 8, wherein said crimping step comprises directing a shape-conforming crimping tool against said concave face of said second end of said inner tube.

10. (original) A method of manufacturing a burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 9, wherein:

- said crimping tool comprises an end portion having a radius less than an inside diameter of said inner tube, and having a shape-conforming, flange-forming portion disposed around a periphery of said crimping tool; and

- said crimping step comprises forming a shape-conforming flange from said second end of said inner tube, said flange being in contact with said rim on said concave inner surface.

11. (original) A method of manufacturing a burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 10, wherein:

- said flange-forming portion has a substantially U-shaped cross-section with an outer rim spaced radially outwardly from an outside diameter of said inner tube, prior to crimping.

12. (currently amended) A burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, comprising:

- a hole in the curved corner of the casket, said hole having a rim with a convex outer surface and a concave inner surface,
- a through-fitting disposed within said hole, said through-fitting having
 - a body portion with a through hole along an axis and with a concave, shape-conforming shoulder portion, said shoulder portion being in contact with and conforming to said convex outer surface of said rim of said hole,
 - a neck portion extending axially from said shoulder portion and through said hole, said neck portion having an radially-outwardly extending integral flange portion, said integral flange portion **being crimped to and** conforming to ~~and being in contact with~~ said concave inner surface of said hole.

13. (original) A burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 12, wherein said integral flange portion conforms to and is in contact with said concave inner surface of said hole substantially around an entire periphery of said neck portion.

14. (original) A burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 13, wherein said shoulder portion conforms to and is in contact with said convex outer surface of said rim of said hole substantially around an entire periphery of said body portion of said through-fitting.

15. (original) A burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 14, wherein said body portion and said neck portion of said through-fitting are integral and in one piece.

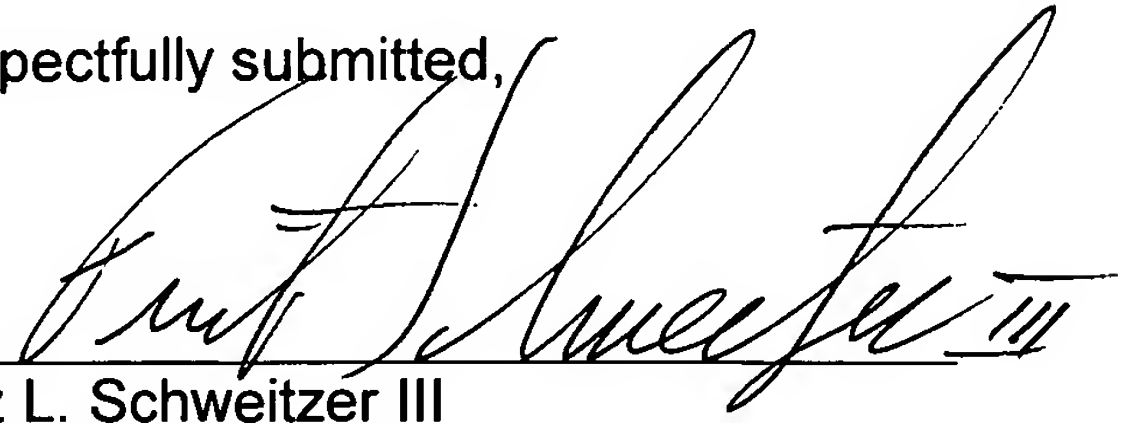
16. (original) A burial casket with a through-fitting on a curved corner of the casket, as in claim 14, wherein:

- said through-fitting is an assembly of inner and outer tubes having first and second ends,

- said first end of said inner tube having external threads and said first end of said outer tube having internal threads, second ends of said inner and outer tubes each having a substantially concave face,

- said inner tube is threaded within said outer tube with said second end of said inner tube extending axially from said concave face of said outer tube.

Respectfully submitted,




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